CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1. A system for identifying and selecting at least

2   one data resource in a data store, comprising:

3   a machine-readable label (MRL) reader with a user

4   interface;

5   a resource base having resources;

6   at least one processor connected to said reader

7   to receive MRL data from said MRL and to control and

8   receive data from said user interface;

9   said at least one processor being programmed to

10   generate a query for use in searching said resource base

11   responsively to said MRL data;

12   said at least one processor being programmed to

13   generate a query to identify at least one resource matching

14   said query and determine a confidence level of said

15   matching;

16   said at least one processor being programmed such

17   that when said confidence level is lower than a

18   predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor

19   receives input from said user interface defining a new

20   resource and stores said new resource in said resource base

21   or another resource base.

22   2. A system as in claim 1, wherein said MRL

23   includes a radio transponder or transmitter.

1   3. A system as in claim 1, wherein:

2   said at least one processor is programmed such

3   that when said confidence level is higher than said

4   predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor

5   receives input from said user interface indicating a

6   desirability of said at least one resource to said user and

7   to update a preference data store responsively to said

8   input.

1   4. A system as in claim 1, wherein said at least

2   one processor is programmed such that when said confidence

3   level is lower than said predetermined confidence level,

4   said at least one processor identifies a resource not

5   matching said query by substituting a term in said query

6   that identifies one of an object associated with said

7   reader, an object associated with an MRL, or another term

8   and searches responsively to said query for a resource and,

9   upon finding said resource, generates an output responsive

10   thereto.

1   5. A system as in claim 4, wherein said term is a

2   term characterizing said object associated with said

3   reader.

1   6. A system for identifying and selecting at least

2 one data resource in a data store, comprising:

3   a machine-readable label (MRL) reader with a user

4 interface;

5   a resource base having resources;

6   at least one processor connected to said reader

7 to receive MRL data from said MRL and to control and

8 receive data from said user interface;

9   said at least one processor being programmed to

10 generate a query for use in searching said resource base

11 responsively to said MRL data;

12   said at least one processor being programmed to

13 generate a query to identify at least one resource matching

14 said query and determine a confidence level of said

15 matching;

16   said at least one processor being programmed such

17 that when said confidence level is lower than a

18 predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor

19 identifies a resource not matching said query by

20 substituting a term in said query that identifies one of an

21 object associated with said reader, an object associated

22 with an MRL, or another term and searches responsively to

23 said query for a resource and, upon finding said resource,

24 generates an output responsive thereto.

1   7. A system as in claim 6, wherein said MRL

2   includes a radio transponder or transmitter.

1   8. A system as in claim 6, wherein:

2   said at least one processor is programmed such

3   that when said confidence level is higher than said

4   predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor

5   receives input from said user interface indicating a

6   desirability of said at least one resource to said user and

7   to update a preference data store responsively to said

8   input.

1   9. A system as in claim 6, wherein said reader is

2   programmed such that when said confidence level is lower

3   than said predetermined confidence level, said at least one

4   processor receives input from said user interface defining

5   a new resource and stores said new resource in said

6   resource base or another resource base.

1   10. A system as in claim 9, wherein said term is

2   a term characterizing said object associated with said

3   reader.

1   11. A system as in claim 6, wherein said reader

2   is programmed such that when said confidence level is lower

3   than said predetermined confidence level, said at least one

4   processor identifies a generic resource responsive to said

5   object associated with an MRL.

1   12.   A system as in claim 11, wherein said reader

2   is programmed such that when said confidence level is lower

3   than said predetermined confidence level, said at least one

4   processor receives input from said user interface defining

5   a new resource and stores said new resource in said

6   resource base or another resource base.

1   13.   A method of identifying a resource in a

2   resource base, comprising the steps of:

3   receiving machine-readable label (MRL) data from

4   a MRL device;

5   generating a first query having multiple terms

6   including one responsive to said MRL data;

7   using said first query to identify at least one

8   resource in a resource base and generate a confidence level

9   of a match between said first query and said at least one

10   resource;

11   when said confidence level is lower than a

12   predetermined level, generating a second query in which

13   another term is substituted for one of said multiple terms

14   and using said second query to identify at least one

15   further resource in said resource base and generate a

16   further confidence level of a match between said second

17   query and said at least one further resource and if said

18   further confidence level is higher than said predetermined

19   level or another predetermined level, generating a message

20   responsive to said resource on a user interface.

1   14. A method as in claim 12, wherein said

2   message suggests to a user that the user use a different

3   one of an object associated with a reader and an object

4   associated with an MRL.

1   15. A method as in claim 13, further comprising

2   the steps of, when said further confidence level is lower

3   than said predetermined level or another predetermined

4   level, identifying a generic response using a third query

5   with fewer terms than said first query or second queries.

1   16. A method of identifying a resource from a

2   machine-readable label (MRL) reader, comprising the steps

3   of:

4   scanning a MRL associated with a first object

5   with a reader associated with a second object;

6   matching resources from a resource base based on

7   a result of said step of scanning;

8   when a result of said step of scanning indicates

9   a poor match, outputting to a user-interface, a message

10   suggesting to a user to use a different one of said first

11   and second objects.

1   17.   A method of identifying a resource from a

2 machine-readable label (MRL) reader, comprising the steps

3 of:

4   scanning a MRL associated with a first object

5 with a reader associated with a second object;

6   matching resources from a resource base based on

7 identifiers corresponding to said first and second objects

8 resulting from said step of scanning;

9   when a result of said step of scanning indicates

10 a poor match, outputting to a user-interface, identifying a

11 resource matching resources from a resource base based on

12 identifiers corresponding to only one of said first and

13 second objects resulting from said step of scanning.